(c) whether he is aware that SMO posted there is compelled to perform the duties of Pharmacist and clerk in the absence of non- posting of such staff members by CGHS administration;

(d) to what extent this is justified; and

(c) how is dispensary is functioning without a pharmacist/ storekeeper/ clerk from the date of opening of the dispensary till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The CGHS Unani dispensary in Kolkata was opened in 1991.

(b) Two Unani Physicians, one Pharmacist-cum-clerk (Unani) and one Nursing Attendant arc sanctioned for the Unani Dispensary.

Only one Unani Physician has been working at present as the other post of Unani Physician has been abolished with effect from 1.7.1999 However, the post of Pharmacist-cum-clerk is lying vacant since the inception of the Unani dispensary in 1991 and the revival of the post is to be taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

(c) In the absence of non-posting of Pharmacist-cum-clerk, the Unani Physician is doing the work related with the Unani Dispensary and one Peon from another dispensary has been provided to assist the Unani Physician.

(d) and (c) In view of (b) and (c) above, the Unani Physician is also looking after the work of Pharmacist-cum-clerk in the interest of the beneficiaries of the Unani dispensary with the assistance of a Peon.

New Herbal Drug for Asthma

2298. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new herbal drug for Asthma has been launched in market;

(b) if so, the reaction of patients of Asthma at large;

(c) whether Government have ensured its availability at cheap price throughout the country; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no system to survey and collect patient reaction to new drugs.

(c) Ayurvedic drugs are presently not subjected to price control.

(d) The Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata has developed a plant based Ayurvedic medicine called ASMON for the treatment of Asthma. All the ingredients of this product have been taken from the authentic books of Ayurveda listed in the First Schedule to Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the licence has been issued in consonance with the rules and procedure laid down for registering a Patent and Proprietary Ayurvedic medicines.

Eradication of TB with foreign aid

2299. SHRI A. VUAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being implemented for eradication of Tuberculosis with foreign aid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the progress of Tuberculosis eradication schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Revised National TB Control Programme (DOTS Strategy) is being implemented in the country in a phased manner for control of TB. The following International Agencies have provided financial assistance for the same.

(i)	World Bank	—	Rs. 604 crores
(ii)	DANIDA	—	Rs. 31.95 crores (for Orissa)
(iii)	DFJD	—	Rs. 109.93 crores (for Andhra Pradesh)

(c) More than 400 million population has been covered under this programme. A cure rate of more than 80% has been reported from the project districts. It is planned to cover 500 million population by 2002 and 800 million by 2004.